7/29/71

Dear Wayne,

Glad to get your mailed the 27th. I'm make as much reply as I can for I'm trying to rush to completion one of three books I've been writing. There is a special reason. That, like much else, will have to await your coming for further explanation. I8m into too much.

Tape recorder; depends on how much you want to put into one and how you want to use it. You can get a very good standard-size cassette machine here for $30.00. If you want a really good one that is quite portable, I'd recommend what I was fortunate enough to be given as a gift, a Sony TC-40. It is not the smallest made. Sony learned tere was too much trouble with the,. In some places AP uses these extensively and with little trouble. The less expensive one is about the size of the one you saw me using. TheSony-the one they sent to the moon - is 3 3/4 x 6½. The less expensive one includes a battery eliminator.

Casettes have several advantages, one being easiest storage.

Didn't know the Esso station had been levelled. I have reason to believe Willie Green is the wrong man, as I'll explain when you are here, but it is a good idea to check it out and I'm glad you are going to.

Mircofilm can be printed out. Or is it that you don't want them to know you are doing it? If that is the case, please ask Ted Glenn 398-7204 to do it at the college library and tell him it is for me but to let you have it, you'll send of bring, and keep a copy. I think the story you described may be important in the future. Have you asked the reporter if he kept his notes? He may have what he didn8t use or got cut. If he has notes, it would be good to try and transcribe everything. I suppose he also spoke to the other reporters who worked on the story.

One other thing missing from both morgues is the history of the sketch. Is it a safe assumption the story was torn out for Renfro?

The CIA part is complicated, wheels within wheels. From "Devil to Pay", Y was bucking them. There came a time when they really did oppose the mercenaries. I have interviewed several, and although they are bery big (lit) liars, they all agree on this. Until JFK was killed. Policy after that I don't know and won't argue with you if you say it changed back. That is quite possible, but I have no evidence of it.

What Renfro says about Youngblood and him and about being in Cuba himself is rubbish. He can't pronounce the names he had to have heard every day had he been there. He spoke to me at some length and I was polite. But does he have to do more than call Che "She"?

JFK did appijt such a panel after the Bay of Pigs. Bobby was on it.

You are also right on DIA, but it is much more than that. DIA is now vast, perhaps larger than CIA, and never mentioned.

Right on changed policy after Cuba Missle crisis. What yiu do not say is that it was not impelemented by the spooks, to the best of my knowledge, until the end of 7/63. It may have been without my knowing it. In my own thinking, the foot went down with an FBI raid on a Cuban ammo dumpt north shore Lake Pontchartrain. In 1/63 the Cubans had a big meeting I've never checked out in Guatemala, about the time Hemming & Co. were looking for Rorke's crashed plane/

I do not have Prouty's writing to which you refer or if I have I've forgotten that part. I regard him as entirely dependable on fact and on interpretation.

I have not kept track of Cabell, but what tou say sound correct

The beginning of what you say of Coingblood, his early days, is new to me. Even where it sounds farout I am willing to believe it, like that te ns-Yalu bit. Those kinds of

things did happen and he's the type to try it.

Your political characterization of Arbenz is an over-simplification, but unless it is relevant, I'll make no further comment.

It may not figure in your work, but much more than CIA was involved in the overthrow of the Arbenz government, named Nicaragua and the Dominican dictatorship plus Veneluela, whence much stanging and arranging.

That Cabell picked Youngblood for that caper would seem to be consistent with Robin moore's portrait, which I recall fairly well. Moreover, for something like that it would have to be someone who could not be connected should it fail. Anything involving Latins gets talked about. I know a man who had to have been involved in the Venezuela end, and he told me where he was and before he went, how long he'd be gone. Not American, Latin....I didn't know of Curtis Youngblood...I do remember Moore's account of the first Castro dealings. Your fact or your interpretation, whichever it may be, is reasonable, and like the agency.

It is when we get to Nancy Perrin Rich that we get onto ticklish ground. I, frankly, can t tell when she was truthful, when she lied. I do know the colonel in that story is not the one made suspect by the feds. I have come to know him well. I an add a bit on Brawner. One of the few apparently dependable things the man who went by the name of Boxley did for Garrison was get from him a xerox of a telegram asking him to join the Bay of Pigs. This man saw to it that there was no copy in hte Garrison files. An associate of his showed it to be the day before he fled New Orleans, the two of them having boobytrapped Garrison who also activated their perhaps well-intentioned trap. I exposed it. It would have been ruinous. They have Perrin still alive! And more and worse. If the FBI read Moore's book they'd have know where to find the real Youngblood, and if they had no other way, they could have done it through Moore or the agent, if not the publishers. So, that they never got the right one has to be non-accidental, for they also knew him. They have to have a rap sheet and prints on him. He has a Frisco record of which I know. I can probably put you in touch with the lawyer a friend of mine out there located, the lawyer who defended him. I have it some-place in my files, but it is probably in a very large one and would take long to find. Easier to write and ask if you want. The Brazil story sounds familiar, but I do not know where I heard it. I know Benfro had some of this stuff, but I also know that Livingston's partner, who gave every appearance of taking an instant dislike to me, knows Y well...The only close relative of Kent Courtney of whom I know is an also-right-wing brother Cy. Never heard of Ken. Now there is also an Alan Courtney, a Miami right-wing writer. May have had a radio prpgram, too. Not clear in recollection. If he did, he was also connected with all the US Cuban mercenaries. The mysterious saving from the firing squad is inconsistent with all Masferer stories. He is a real sadist, was know as El Tigre for his visiousness. I d not discount the possibility, if that is in the Herald files, thatbit was contrived as part of a cover story. Your next graph, which I now see, is not in any way inconsistent with this hunch.

In the book, knowing something of Moore's approach and Youngblood's wildness, I had some trouble following it when he said he got on the outs with Castro. My recollection is unclear, but it is to the effect that some of it seems not to stack well. Again, not in-consistent, if true, with agency connection. But that did require steel nerves!

Do you think that Y would have recruited two cops for such a caper withoutworrying about what would ahppen? Are cops so free they can come and go like this? I think cops would have been bad if anything had gone wrong, and the agency would have screamed if he was then still working for them. And would the cops risk their jobs this way? The last graph on 4, the Miami arrest, bears on the earlier point about the FBI missing, which can't be and makes credible an agency connection that was protected. But who called the cops? Who knew and could have? It is important that Y became prosecution witness instead of defendant, but he was the real offender. Could they have pulled that off, the Miami police? Doubt it. And when he scammed, even more reason to infer influence used.

There is no doubt there is ample reason to suspect an agency connection. My biggest trouble was with the time, when I knew JFK had put his foot down and when, from what could

be no more than a cover account, Y was fighting or being fought by the feds. Certainly the book would seem to mark the end of official usefulness. Or do you disagree?

That Youngblood was part of Doubl-Chek is credible. Have you check the stories of the pre-Bay Pigs foolishness, when an allegedly shot-up B-26 landed at Key West and the reporter saw through the sham? That could also have been the kind of thing he could have been used for. But this story of the airlines pilot presents a problem: those U-2 types were kept to themselves. And how could Y have had any connection with that kind of operation? How, then, can this guy know that Y was with the agency until 1965 if he was used as a U-2 pilot? Is it more than Y so told him?

It can provide a credible motive for the JFK assassination, but not King. Renfro also said that the agency boys wanted vengeance, feeling sold out. But if they knew what happened, they sought vengeance on the wrong man, for he had never agreed to what the agency promised, and they should have gone after the liars with false promises. Besides, there were nop plans of which I know for air cover on the first attack. That was made up.

Is Bob's partner Walter? Well, I heard he knew Y was then in Memphis....What is more interesting is what I suppose is, like in Dallas, unavailable, the identifications from the police of those they arrested....I got a similar story from Thompson about the set-up and just don t believe it. They needed but one and they had the best in Ray.

Nor do I believe the story that Ray blundered, and I'll tell you why when you are here. I remember Renfro's and Warren Smith's story, and I know Jim's ~~skin~~ club was remodeled. I was there. But Renfro himself is capable of having written that number near the booth. Or was it a wall phone? However, there is one aspect of the Haiti stiry that interests me, the gun-seller, and that can t be Raoul. There was a Haiti caper going then. I have one of the guns (Calif) on tape with another present. They claimed to have agency backing, which I then doubted. Both were former mercenaries (Cuba), one claimed to have been there with Castro (not impossible), and they talked quite openly to me and on the phone while I was there about this. But why was it necessary to buy guns through such a seller when there is Cummings, Interarmco, etc?

The next day Y <u>would</u> have known about the evidence left behind. It was reported. One could argue counter to you, that knowing there was nothing on him he could have gone there and arranged to attract attention so he would be picked up and released before there was what should have been expected but never was, anybreal investigation.

Your argument on who Y could have called is persuasive if the police were not themselves first persuaded that they had nothing on him. And, if he had an agency connection of the past it could have jelped him then, for the last thing they wanted was any of theirs, past or present, implicated.

I'll wait for you to be here to discuss other possible motives. And you are correct that all of the right are not racists, and some minorities who are the victims of racism also produce members for the extreme right.

I don't think the real King killers did it for partiotic reasons, real or fancied. I think it was for $$$$$. But, God knows how many separate plots there could have been, were most of the time....There is another possibility on whether Ray ever heard of Youngblood, that is Y's use of another name....I see no point in establishing a surveillance post prior to the crime. I wasn't needed....Your questions are all reasonable, but I just don't think the crime was committed that way. I think if he served any role, he was the or a killer, not a patsy, unless it was arranged for a second patsy with a real alibi to be available in the event the first didn't work, and it was a farout thing that did work... Glad you are cominng. The time now is open, but I never know what can happen. My wife is working to help a friend 8/23-7, so I have to take her to work at 9 and get her at 5. We are an hour away. If you are driving, you are welcome here. This time of the year reservations can be tight in DC. By the way, hoep you have the stories on Canale at the Pick, with slides. I think the best approach is just to talk about these things. I have forgotten much about the little I knew of him...And one thing about all those types is that they like to be connected with action, even if they fancy the connection, and then talk about it among themselves. I have met enough to know this is true of those I have met. ...Think about his alleged casino connections. They might be interesting. If you recall any names, note them not to forget. Thanks for the long explanation. Hope these random comments may be of some use. See you soon.